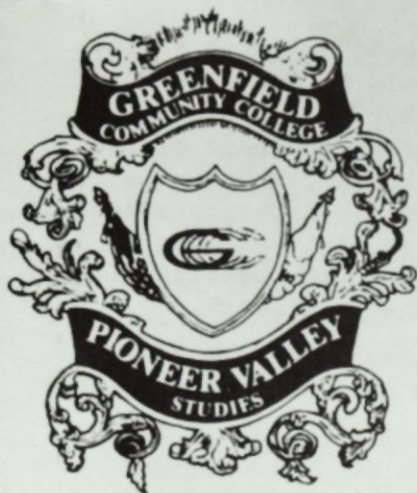




Pioneer Valley Studies NEWSLETTER

TOWARDS DEFINING OUR SENSE OF PLACE

Vol. I, No. 3

May 1982

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH SYMPOSIUM by Prof. Richard Wizansky

Greenfield Community College will honor one of the nation's most distinguished writers and statesmen when it sponsors an Archibald MacLeish Symposium on Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8. The Symposium culminates months of organizing and is sponsored jointly by the College, the MacLeish Collection Committee and the Pioneer Valley Studies Program of Greenfield Community College.

Archibald MacLeish, who died on Tuesday, April 20, 1982 would have turned ninety this year. He was the recipient of a wide variety of awards for literature and government service. Most notably, he was awarded three Pulitzer Prizes, and served as assistant Secretary of State and Librarian of Congress in the Roosevelt administration. His play "J.B." was a Broadway success and continues to be frequently performed. Mr. MacLeish is also the author of numerous volumes of poetry and an impressive list of stage and radio plays including his play "Panic" which received national attention when it was recently performed in Greenfield. The author resided in western Massachusetts, a location he often characterized lovingly in his works.

The Symposium events of Friday, May 7, will include talks on MacLeish's works and contributions to American letters, media presentations, reminiscences, a cocktail party hosted by MacLeish's publisher, Houghton Mifflin, and a dinner party which will include tributes from distinguished guests. The evening will conclude with a concert

of MacLeish's poems "Songs for Eve" set to music by Alice Parker with the composer conducting The Manhattan String Quartet at the Old Brick Church in Old Deerfield. Saturday's program will feature more talks on MacLeish and his work, reminiscences, a slide/tape tour of the MacLeish home in Conway, and a performance of his radio play "Air Raid." The Symposium will conclude with tributes to Mr. MacLeish.

Writers, scholars, and distinguished guests from across the country will convene at the college to honor the memory of Mr. MacLeish. John Kenneth Galbraith, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Robert Penn Warren, Donald Hall, and Charles Kuralt are among the friends and colleagues of Mr. MacLeish who will attend. Tributes will be read from President Reagan, Vice President Bush, John Ciardi, and Senator Edward Kennedy, among others.

The organization of the Symposium represents the concerted efforts of the MacLeish committee whose members include co-chairs Ben Drabek and Helen Ellis, and George Bluh, John Bross, James Godwin, Pegge Howland, Ed Kelly, Donna Kenny, Carol Letson, Tucker Macgregor, Luella McLaughlin, Robert Merriam, Arthur Shaw, Ellie Stebbins, Herb Steeper, Robert Tracy, and Richard Wizansky.

All signs point to the fact that the Symposium will be an event of literary and historic importance in which Greenfield Community College can take pride and satisfaction.

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NOTES FROM THE P.V.S. RESOURCE CENTER - by
Carol G. Letson, P.V.S. Librarian

An interest in archaeology is being kindled at Greenfield Community College. Dolores Root's course, Valley Archaeology, has led to the Resource Center's acquiring a basic collection of works on the subject. The archaeology collection is rapidly developing and the following are only a sampling of the many works we have recently received:

The Neville Site: 8000 years at Amoskeag, Manchester, N.H., by Dena Dincauze, 1976.

"The excavation of the Neville site in 1968 was a major event in the archaeological history of New England. At one stroke the known duration of continuous occupation in the region was extended by three thousand years, and very close, early connections with the Southeast were demonstrated." (Preface)

6LF21, a paleo-Indian site in western Connecticut, by Roger W. Moeller, 1980.

An account of the excavation of a site in Washington, Conn., on the flood plain of the Shepaug River. The excavation and analysis created a great deal of public interest in the findings, and so this report was written in a format understandable to the non-archaeologist.

New England megaliths: fact and fancy, The Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, no. 44, 1981

"Presents some of the most comprehensive and recent thoughts on New England stone structures today." Myths have grown around the enigmatic stone structures found around New England. More realistic uses for these structures are proposed - uses distinctly less romantic than the old myths of mystical monks and voracious Vikings.

Pioneer Valley Studies Newsletter

Program Notes and News from:

Pioneer Valley Studies
Greenfield Community College
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Editor: Donna Kenny

Early and middle archaic cultures in the Northeast, ed. by David R. Starbuck and Charles E. Bolian, 1980.

These papers expand the knowledge of two time periods which are poorly known in New England. Many of the interpretations made here are based on analyses made of excavated materials from the Neville site, discussed above in the first work.

The following titles have also been added to the Resource Center collection:

The New England regional plan: an economic development strategy, New England Regional Commission, 1981.

Covers all facets of the economy with interesting articles on the importance of "home grown" businesses and on pollution control and water supply.

A Puritan outpost: a history of the town and people of Northfield, Mass., by Herbert Collins Parsons, 1937.

Northfield was the farthest venture of Puritan pioneering to the west and north in the seventeenth century.

Music in colonial Massachusetts, 1630 - 1820: music in public places, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1980.

Military music, anti-stamp tax songs, and American country dance tunes are some of the topics covered.

Medicine in colonial Massachusetts, 1620 - 1820, The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1978.

Sample topics covered are church record-keeping and public health, the influence of Europe on colonial Massachusetts medicine, and botanic remedies and medical implements used at that time.

The new microfilm reader, Northwest Microfilm model NMI 2020A, has arrived and has been installed in the Resource Center. This machine is especially useful for viewing the microfilm of the Howes brothers' glass plate negative collection. The machine can also be used to view any other microfilm in the Library's periodical collection.

At this time the hours for the Resource Center remain:

Monday	8 - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	12 - 1:00 p.m.
	2 - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	8 - 4:30 p.m.

SCULPTURE EXHIBIT

Pioneer Valley Studies is presenting an exhibit of metal sculpture by Greenfield sculptor, Archie Nahman, who works with cast-off machine parts to create both functional and decorative objects such as furniture, figures and masks. His source of inspiration derives from his family, his work as a precision machinist, and travels throughout his native Africa, Israel and the United States.

The Nahman sculpture exhibit will open Friday, April 30 and continues through June 2, in the Library and Learning Resource Center at Greenfield Community College. Hours: Mon-Thur. 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; Fri. 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; Fri 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Sun 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FREE ADMISSION.

FALL '82 P.V.S. COURSES

The following courses will be offered to both full-time and part-time students this fall:

* The Valley - find out what it was, how it grew, where it is and how to go about studying it - in Introduction to the Pioneer Valley (HUM 113). Prof. H. Pfeil - TTh 9:30 a.m. The course will consist of a series of fourteen guest lecturers, each speaking on their own area of expertise concerning the Valley. Sample topics include: 19th Century Writers, Ethnic History, Industry and Politics.

* Valley Geology (GEO 104): learn about the land of the dinosaurs and the legacy of Lake Hitchcock. Prof. R. Little - MW 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

* Study about Valley witches in Valley/American History I (HIS 107). Prof. S. Sherter TTh 8:00 a.m.

* Study Bryant, Dickinson, MacLeish and other great writers in Valley Writers (ENG 253). Prof. B. Van Guilder - TTh 11:00 a.m.

* The Valley has its artists too. Discover who they are in Valley/American Art and Architecture (ART 105). Instr. D. Forsberg TTh 12:30 p.m.

* Guest lecturers discuss energy, water use, conservation and other Valley Contemporary Directions and Issues (HUM 115). Prof. A. Shaw - Tuesdays 3:30 - 6:00 p.m.

* Contact the Student Personnel Office to register now before the courses are filled.

P.V.S. SUMMER INSTITUTE by Dr. Bernard A. Drabek

A grant for \$79,230 funding a two-year Summer Institute in Pioneer Valley Studies for elementary and secondary school teachers has been awarded to Greenfield Community College by the National Endowment for the Humanities. At the Institute, the first of which is slated for 1982, participants will take four courses: Valley History, Valley Writers, Valley Art and Architecture, and Valley Geology, with special presentations in other aspects of Valley Studies.

In addition to course work, participants will be required to prepare a project in Valley Studies for use in their own schools.

Offered on a tuition-free basis and allowing a stipend of \$250 to each participant, the Institute also includes a special workshop for administrators of schools represented by participants.

Regular Pioneer Valley Studies faculty at Greenfield Community College will serve as Institute faculty. These include: Saul Sherter and John Kazar, Valley History; Phyllis Nahman, Valley Writers; Diane Forsberg, Valley Art and Architecture; and Richard Little, Valley Geology.

Special presentations will be by Arthur Shaw, Valley Issues; Wil Roberts, Valley Folklife; Larry Buell, Valley Environmental Issues; and Herbert Steeper, State and Local Government.

Serving as Curriculum Design Coordinator will be George Bluh, who teaches Valley Ethnic History at the College.

Project Director for the Institute is Dr. Bernard A. Drabek, author of the proposal and Coordinator of Pioneer Valley Studies. He is also principal author and Project Director of the NEH Implementation Grant. Dr. Drabek, a member of the faculty at GCC since its founding in 1962, stated that the Summer Institute enables the college to capitalize on skills and resources acquired through the primary grant, offering to the 30 elementary and secondary school teachers who attend a background in the Valley and a basis for exciting curriculum development in regional studies.

(Continued...)

The Summer Institute also has the distinction of being one of the few Institute grants ever awarded nationwide to a community college for such a project. The new grant brings NEH support of Pioneer Valley Studies to the total of \$340,427.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN AND ABOUT THE VALLEY

Now through June 2, 1982, Greenfield Community College Library, Metal Sculpture Exhibit by Archie Nahman (See article on page 3.) Free and open to the public.

*
Now through July 18, 1982, Smith College Art Museum Exhibit, "Edwin Romanzo Elmer." The Ashfield, Massachusetts artist is the subject of a full-scale exhibition which includes his three works of international recognition: Mourning Picture (1890), Magic Glasses (1891) and A Lady of Baptist Corner, Ashfield, MA (1892). Free and open to the public.

*
Saturday, May 1, 1982, 11:00 a.m., Smith College Art Museum, Illustrated Lecture, "Edwin Romanzo Elmer, 1850-1923" by Betsy B. Jones, Museum Director. Free and open to the public.

*
Friday - Saturday, May 7 - 8, 1982, Greenfield Community College, "Archibald MacLeish Symposium." There is a fee. (See cover article on page 1.)

*
Saturday, May 15, 1982, 9:00 a.m., Pioneer Valley Historical Council meeting at the Halifax Historical Society Museum, West Halifax, Vermont. Guest speaker will be Timothy C. Neumann, Curator, PVMA Museum, Deerfield on, "School Programs for the Small Museum." Lunch and visit to the Halifax Historical Society Museum will follow. Reservations are required by May 7. Contact Mrs. Alice Crawford at 772-6992.

*
Thursday, May 20, 1982, 8:00 p.m., Historic Deerfield Lecture Series, "To Glorify and Refine Eating and Drinking: The Use of Silver Objects in America, 1690-1820", by Barbara M. Ward, Exhibition Coordinator, American Decorative Arts, Yale University. Event will be held at the White Church on Memorial Street in Old Deerfield.

*
Saturday, June 12, 1982, 9:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Historic Deerfield Forum, "Massachusetts Furniture at Historic Deerfield." There is a fee. For more information contact the Education Department at Historic Deerfield.

*

P.V.S. SUMMER WORKSHOPS

The Division of Continuing Education at Greenfield Community College will offer the following series of workshops. For more information, please call: 774-3131, Extension 272.

* Architecture and the Decorative Arts in the Pioneer Valley. June 30 and July 7, from 7-9:30 p.m. Explore the distinctive styles of the early settlers in the Valley prevalent during the 17th through 19th centuries. The workshop will conclude with a tour of the Porter-Phelps-Huntington House in Hadley, historic homes in Northampton and a dinner on July 10. Diane Forsberg, Instructor and Tour Leader. There is a fee.

* Quabbin: The Lost Towns. July 14 and 21, 7-9:30 p.m. Explore the geology, geography, history and ecology of the Quabbin region. Optional field trip will include a visit to the Swift River Valley Historical Society Museum, a walking tour of part of the Quabbin peninsula and a dinner on July 24. Hartley Pfeil, Instructor and Tour Leader. There is a fee.

* The White Nun of Amherst. July 28 and Aug. 4, 7-9:30 p.m. A fresh look at the intense and beautiful poetry of Emily Dickinson, who left a priceless contribution to the Pioneer Valley literary heritage. The course will conclude with a trip to the Dickinson house and dinner at the Lord Jeffrey Inn on August 7. Phyllis Nahman, Instructor and Tour Leader. There is a fee.

NEW ENGLAND RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

(Ed.: The following information was provided by the Hilltown Community Development Corporation)

The New England Rural Leadership Program is an exciting new program, sponsored by the six New England Cooperative Extension Services, that will help selected individuals become important resources for their communities, their states, and their region. This program has been designed to train concerned citizens to become leaders in public affairs. Issues of local and regional importance will be identified, analyzed, and probed throughout the training period. Organizational process and group dynamic skills will also be developed as part of the program.

Fifteen people from Massachusetts will be selected to participate in the first session of the New England Rural Leadership Program.

Individuals may apply singly, or as a family unit. Participants representing many aspects of rural life will be selected, but all must have a demonstrated commitment to public involvement in decision-making.

The program requires a 30-day commitment over 2 years. Approximately 5 weekend workshops per year will take place, plus visits to state and national capitals at the end of each year. Room, board, travel, and educational materials are all covered by the program.

For more information contact the Cooperative Extension Office at the University of Massachusetts - 545-2715. The application deadline is June 15, and the first training session is tentatively scheduled for November, 1982.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

Northampton Historical Society, Friday, May 7 - Annual Dinner Meeting with Suzanne Jonas as "Amelia Bloomer" talking about her life in the 1850's as a newspaper editor and advocate of women's rights, equal education and temperance. In costume, with slides and music. To be held in the Pioneer Room of the Northampton Hilton Inn. For more information, contact the Society Office, 46 Bridge Street. Reservations required.

SUMMER PROGRAMS OF REGIONAL INTEREST

* New England Studies Summer Institute, University of Rhode Island, June 21 - July 23, 1982. Focus will be on the relationship between technological developments and the economy of New England, with Leo Marx, Professor of Technology and Society at M.I.T. as the visiting scholar. For more information, contact Prof. Paul Arakelian, Watson House, U.R.I., Kingston, R.I. 02881.

* New England Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 27-August 6, 1982. Emphasis on interdisciplinary curriculum, as well as research and development of a New England studies curriculum project. For more information, contact Mr. Alan Fraker, New England Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, 10 Silsby Hall, Hanover, NH 03755.

* 35th Annual Seminars on American Culture, Cooperstown, NY, Week I: June 27-July 3. Week II: July 4-July 10. "Designed for interested

amateur as well as the spirited professional." Curriculum ranges from courses on climate and history and the press in America, to 19th century music and oral history, including crafts workshops with emphasis on "hands-on" participation. For more information, contact New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N.Y. 13326.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank Margaret E. C. Howland, Director of the Greenfield Community College Library and Learning Resource Center, Tom Boisvert, Assistant Director of Media and Garry Longe, Media Production Technician for their contributions to the design and layout of the Newsletter. Also a special thank you to G.C.C. student, Jesse Rexroad, and Media Secretary, Alice Clapp, for their help with the typing and mailing of the Newsletter.

CORRECTION

We are informed by Mrs. Janet Wiegand of the Bernardston Historical Society that the earlier name for Bernardston was Falls Fight and not Falls Flight, as was listed in the last issue.

NEXT ISSUE

June 30, 1982

Submission Deadline

June 15, 1982





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... Towards Defining Our Sense of Place ...

★ Valley Studies Courses ★ Research ★ MacLeish Collection ★ Howes Collection ★ Resource Center ★

This project is partially funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

P.V.S. Faculty

George Bluh
Dr. Helen Ellis
Diane Forsberg
Dr. John Kazar
Richard Little
Virginia Low
Phyllis Nahman
Hartley Pfeil
C. Wilson Roberts
Dolores Root
Dr. Arthur Shaw
Saul Sherter
Dr. Herbert Steeper
Elizabeth Van Guilder

*... The Valley... the bed of the
prehistoric lake where the Deerfield
River comes down to the Connecticut
in Massachusetts, opening the
northwest gateway to the wilderness
beyond. It was by this gateway that
the Commonwealth was settled
through its highest hills and with
its oldest hopes and here too, in
later years, that the Old New
England journey was begun
again.*

Archibald MacLeish

P.V.S. Committee

Dr. Larry Buell
Dr. L. Edward Dolhenty
Dr. Bernard Drabeck, Chairman
Dr. Helen Ellis
Shirley Evans
Margaret Howland
Donna Kenny
Carol Letson
Patricia Leuchtman
Richard Little
Robert Merriam
Joan Rising
Saul Sherter
Wendy Sibbison
Dr. Herbert Steeper

Pioneer Valley Studies is a new curriculum at Greenfield Community College which focuses on the history, traditions, and culture of the Connecticut River Valley in Western Massachusetts.